GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1675
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
NEW SCHEME FOR DISTRIBUTION
Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand;Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any new system in place of PDS to ensure food security to the poor and needy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be introduced;

(c) if not, whether the benefits of the ongoing schemes would continue to be available to the poor and middle class people; and

(d) if so, the details of such schemes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. To ensure food security for all and to improve the Public Distribution System (PDS) for the benefit of the poorest of the poor from amongst the BPL families, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was commenced in December, 2000 to provide 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidized rates of Rs.2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs.3/- per kg. for rice. The scale of issue has been enhanced to 35 kg. per family per month with effect from April, 2002. The Yojana which initially covered one crore poorest of the poor families has been expanded to cover 1.50 crore BPL families in June, 2003. It is now being further expanded to cover another 50 lakh BPL families particularly the ones which are at the risk of hunger.

(c)&(d): Yes, Sir. Beside AAY, other complementary Welfare Schemes such as Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), Annapoorna and Mid-day Meals Programme etc are under implementation for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.